

# Continuation of "Knew Him Before the War"

under Albert Sidney Johnson, in 1856-7, and I to the Second Dragoons, then under the command of Lieut. Col. Philip St. George Cooke.

"Our first acquaintance began with his offering me a feed for my horse, a favor which no one can appreciate who has not been on like marches under similar conditions. A brief chat with the young man while my horse was eating revealed the fact that just at that time he would rather have been back in 'Vaterland,' so far as personal comfort was concerned, and the same time it revealed that prominent element of firmness in what he deemed to be right, and of determination to carry it through at all hazards, especially if it was in the line of duty, that formed so great a part of his character, as has been told to me by those who knew him more intimately than I ever had an opportunity to do. I saw no more of him until almost a year later we met in Camp Floyd, near Salt Lake City. There we had frequent opportunities of meeting of which I availed myself often. I delighted in his talks of the 'old home,' and his racy descriptions of scenes on shipboard, his army experiences thus far and his witty criticisms of passing events. Though but a private soldier, his was an acquaintance worth seeking, and he was a man of extraordinary acquirements, who could not have arisen from a half-hour's conversation with Fred Phisterer better informed than when he sat down. His comrades used to say of him: 'That Dutch boy is as well posted as the officers.' That he was better informed than some of them there is no manner of doubt in my own mind. That he reached rank and distinction as a soldier there is no wonder.

"From Camp Floyd our commands went their separate ways, and we met no more until just before the two day's fighting at Stone river. Then there were occasional meetings in Chattanooga, before the battle of Missionary Ridge, and two or three times perhaps, during the pursuit of Johnson through Georgia by Sherman and after that I met him no more again until he came to Cape Vincent inspecting the State troops in camp here. From Camp Floyd in Utah in 1857 to Sherman's pursuit of Johnson, down through Georgia in 1864 was a far cry, but the Dutch boy had become a man. He had been in battle. He had been baptized in the flame of conflict. He had won his spurs and an honor medal, and was soon to win promotion, and a command that he was fully competent to fill. But I need not pursue this subject further. I mourn him as one loyal comrade should mourn another. I am glad that I knew as much of him as I did, and enjoyed his acquaintance even though it was carried on at odd times and seasons, and subject to long interruptions and finally to be entirely lost sight of only to be renewed at my own home.

"I send you this, General Henry, because I somehow felt like putting my mite on record. I know none of his family, and I thought that maybe you would like to have in your department any tribute to his memory that might be offered.

"If his son should be in Albany and should care to have a copy of this, let him have it, otherwise make such disposition of it as you choose. Please do not look upon it as a literary effort. It is far from that; but it is an earnest, heartfelt tribute from an old soldier to an old time comrade worthy of all that can be said in his favor.

"Very truly yours,

"JAMES H. DURHAM.

"P. S.—I presume there will occur to me at times many things that would be of interest to friends of Col. Phisterer, but I do not now recall them. You see I am nearly 88 and my memory is not so completely under my control as it once was.

J. H. D.

## DEATHS IN 1909 Noted People Removed During the Year. AN IMPRESSIVE LIST.

Authors, Scientists, Statesmen, Artists, Soldiers, Sailors and Kings  
In the World of Finance Appear  
In the Record—The Roll Includes  
Royalty, and Civilians of Eminence  
at Home and Abroad.

JULY.  
Prof. Simon Newcomb, noted astronomer, mathematician and traveler, in Washington; aged 74.  
Frederick Phisterer, civil war veteran and noted military writer and statistician, at Albany, N. Y.; aged 73.  
Louis Loeb, American artist and illustrator, at Canterbury, N. H.; aged 43.  
Don Carlos, pretender to the throne of

MAJOR JAMES H. DURHAM WRITES  
GENERAL HENRY OF UTAH  
EXPEDITION.

WAS WITH  
PHISTERER  
BEFORE WAR

Earnest Tribute From an Old Soldier  
and Former Regular Army Officer  
to an Old-Time Comrade—  
Met Phisterer on Stone's  
River Battlefield.

Reminiscences of the late General Frederick Phisterer dating back to the time when they were comrades in arms under the Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnson in the Utah expedition in 1856-7 were contained in an interesting letter which has just been received by Adjutant General Nelson H. Henry. The writer is Major James H. Durham, of Cape Vincent, a retired army officer who is now 88 years of age. Major Durham's letter will be especially interesting to the large number of friends of the dead Albanian, including the many former students in the cadet battalions of the Albany Boys' academy, who were instructed in military discipline over a period of thirteen years by the late distinguished Albany soldier.

Major Durham's letter is as follows: "Cape Vincent, N. Y.,

"July 14, 1909.

"My dear Sir:—It was with the keenest sorrow and regret that I read this morning of the death of Lieut. Col. Fred Phisterer. He was one of my early military acquaintances, and as

boy and man he was one of the best I ever knew. I say boy, because he was young and fresh, looking younger than his years—about twenty I imagine—and because I was nearly 16 years his senior. He belonged to the artillery attached to the Utah expedition under Albert Sidney Johnson in 1856-7, and I to the Second Dragoons, then under the command of Lieut. Col. Philip St. George Cooke.

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